

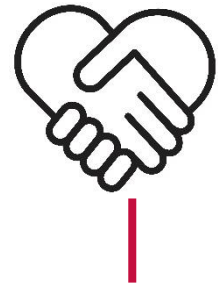
In order to qualify for hospice care, your doctor must certify that you are terminally ill with a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Hospice services focus on comfort, quality of life, and dignity by addressing an individual's emotional, social and spiritual needs as well as medical symptoms like pain management. Support is provided to the patient's loved ones as well. Please visit the [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) to learn more about hospice. This information is intended to provide you with a general understanding of what hospices may offer.

Levels of Care

Hospices are required to provide 4 levels of care, and patients often have a choice of where they receive their care.

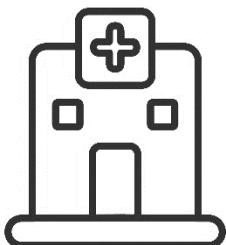


Routine Home Care: This level of care is provided wherever the patient lives (e.g., a private home, assisted living facility, nursing home, etc.). Care is not provided 24 hours per day. Additionally, Hospice Houses are facilities owned by a hospice where individuals can receive routine home care.



Continuous Home Care: This level of care is provided wherever the patient lives (e.g., a private home, assisted living facility, nursing home, etc.). Hospice staff remain with the patient for at least 8 hours per day, and more than half of care is provided by a skilled professional.

Respite Care: The patient stays in a hospice-owned facility or another facility that contracts with the hospice. The patient stays for 5 days typically, and the goal is to allow the family to have a break from caregiving.



General Inpatient Care: The patient's symptoms require ongoing skilled assessment and management, and the patient is cared for outside of their residence. Care can take place in a hospice inpatient facility, a hospital that has hospice beds, or a facility that the hospice contracts with.

Required Services

According to section 42 CFR 418.64 of the federal regulations and COMAR 10.24.13 of the state regulations, hospice employees are required to provide the following services:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ✓ Physician services | ✓ Short-term inpatient care (includes respite care) |
| ✓ Nursing services | ✓ Personal care |
| ✓ Medical social services* | ✓ Volunteer services |
| ✓ Counseling services for patient AND family** | ✓ Pharmacy services |
| ✓ Specialized rehabilitative services*** | ✓ Laboratory, radiology, and chemotherapy services for palliative care |
| ✓ Hospice aide and homemaker services | ✓ Medical supplies and equipment |

* Involves social workers under the supervision of a physician who are working with the patient based on his or her psychosocial assessment

** Includes bereavement, dietary, and spiritual counseling

*** Includes physical therapy, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, and respiratory therapy